

Annual Report to the People

November 2012

Marlboro County



Marlboro County Ag Building
709 S. Parsonage Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512
Phone: (843)479-6851
Fax: (843)479-8444

www.clemson.edu/marlboro

Mission Statement

The mission of the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service is to provide sound, scientifically based information to South Carolinians and help them use that information to improve the quality of their lives.

Small Farm Market Opportunity

The Marlboro County Farmers Market Association is a nonprofit corporation located in Marlboro County with a desire to assist small farmers and limited resource farmers in marketing vegetables. Fresh and locally grown vegetables are encouraged from local, state, and national health officials to address concerns of high blood pressure, heart disease, and obesity. The Association seeks to provide income from additional sales through funds provided through a USDA grant of \$87,400. The initial project will involve Marlboro and Dillon county farmers. These small farmers and limited resource farmers have the knowledge to produce vegetables and have been growing quality vegetables for many years. They are currently growing vegetables for the local markets including roadside stands, farmers markets, direct sales. Most of the farmers depend on the sale of vegetables as a source of income to support the family.

The customers are seeking vegetables that are cut, sliced, chopped, washed and ready to cook. Having vegetables that are ready to cook will expand the market. This project will provide equipment to cut, slice, chop, and wash vegetables that is ready to cook with limited preparation.

Small farmers and limited resource farmers will have access to a greater market. Many businesses that provide contracts demand that vegetables be ready to cook with limited preparation. There are additional local markets as the federal prison, state prison, and Farm to School Program. The farmer can plan



production based on contract sales. The contract sales will increase current production and demand additional employment. The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service County Agent will directly monitor the project. The Agent has provided production information for over 10 years to small farmers and limited resource farmers. The Agent will assist in securing markets and ensuring quality for these vegetable producing farmers. The project is anticipated to create eight jobs the first year.



Extension research boosts crop production

Weeds and nematodes are just two of the many challenges that row crop producers face. Weeds reduce yields (and thus profits) by competing with crops for nutrients and water, while plant-parasitic nematodes (microscopic roundworms) reduce plant growth by feeding on their roots. In Marlboro County, extension agents and specialists have teamed up on research projects to combat both of these. In spring 2012, seed samples were collected from one of our most hard-to-combat weeds, Italian Ryegrass, in winter wheat. The seeds will be germinated in a greenhouse at Edisto Research and Education Center in Blackville to determine resistance to common herbicides. The results will be used to make recommendations on weed management plans for farmers with herbicide-resistant ryegrass, thus improving wheat yields and profits.



In fall 2011, soil samples were also collected in soybean fields throughout the county, to determine if nematodes were present, what kind and how many. Information will be provided to farmers so they will know if the nematode numbers exceed the threshold (minimum number causing economic loss) as well as their treatment options. Additional nematode soil samples will be collected in both soybean and peanut fields in fall 2012, with follow-up prior to the next growing season provided by the county agent to help farmers boost yields above previous levels. Due to the recent loss of an important nematicide, farmers have been encouraged to submit soil samples from cotton, soybean and peanut fields to the nematode assay lab at Clemson University, which normally charges \$10 per sample. The research study is being conducted at no charge to the farmer, with a maximum of 24 samples being taken in a four county area. One Marlboro County farmer reported increased yields after sampling his soybean fields, finding nematodes above the threshold and following Clemson Extension's management recommendations. We look forward to this success story being repeated as a result of our unbiased university research on nematodes and weeds in row crops.

Confined Animal Manure Managers (CAMM)

The focus of CAMM trainings is to educate facility owners and operators about water quality protection, best management practices, animal manure utilization, nuisance vector control, and dead animal disposal. An owner or operator of an animal confinement facility must pass an examination to become a Certified Animal Waste Applicator.

The Extension Agent planned, coordinated, and implemented 8 CAMM trainings throughout the Pee Dee Region. The trainings were held in Sumter, Florence, Dillon, Kershaw, Lee, and Darlington Counties. Over 170 confined animal producers attended these meetings. Those in attendance came from all over the state of South Carolina.

Goat Marketing Seminar

The Goat Industry in the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina is growing rapidly. Goat owners in the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina are looking for ways to improve their care and stewardship of the land in which they keep their goats. Also goat owners in the Pee Dee Region are searching for programs that offer answers to some of the questions they deal with every day on the farm.

Two goat management seminars were conducted by the Clemson University Extension Livestock and Forages Team. A committee was formed to help come up with different marketing topics associated with the area and also help advertise, coordinate, and implement the Goat Marketing Seminar. The committee was made up of USDA employees, goat producers, and

Clemson University Extension Agents.

The Goat Marketing Seminar was a one day program held at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center in Florence County. The topics included goat opportunities, goat cycles and trends, multi-species grazing, equip, producer panel and observations, on-farm processing, meat laws and regulations, forming marketing alliances, and ethnic marketing. Speakers included Extension Agents Brian Beer, Kevin Campbell, Danny Howard, Lee Van Flake, and Mathew Anderson (NRCS).

Thirty four people attended the Goat Marketing Seminar. There were goat producers from South Carolina and North Carolina. The majority of those in attendance were from the Pee Dee Region. A pre-evaluation and post-

evaluation was conducted with those in attendance. All participants expressed that they had gained knowledge. The majority of those in attendance strongly agreed that the Goat Marketing Seminar met their expectations and that they planned on taking what they learned during the program and implementing it back on the farm. Due to the Goat Marketing Seminar producers expressed they would use information learned to help increase their revenue and profit. New and experienced goat producers expressed that they learned basic marketing strategies. Overall those in attendance expressed the Goat Marketing Seminar was an asset to goat producers in the Pee Dee Region.



*Lee Van Flake, Area
Livestock Agent / Pee Dee
Region*

Pee Dee Region Livestock Programs

Livestock and forage programming are done on a regional level in the Pee Dee Region, which covers the counties of Florence, Clarendon, Sumter, Darlington, Marion, Marlboro, Dillon, Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg, and Lee. This is done so livestock and forage producers can meet in at a

central location in order to receive information from Extension Staff throughout the Pee Dee Region. Extension staff along with State Animal and Forage specialists from Clemson University assist three Pee Dee Region cattlemen's associations with a minimum of 12 educational programs each year. Together there are over 150 livestock producers who are members of the cattlemen's

associations. The associations are the Pee Dee Cattlemen's association, Central Cattlemen's Association, and the Sandhill's Livestock association. Other Livestock and Forages programs held in the Pee Dee Region include equine management seminars, goat management seminars, calibration field days, manure management programs, and 4-H livestock care and showman ship presentations.

Livestock Programs Pee Dee Region:

- Planned, coordinated, and implemented 10 beef cattle programs in the Pee Dee Region. Over 350 producers participated in these programs. These programs included information on forages, general management practices, marketing, proper culling, fencing, and other practices associated with beef cattle management.
- Planned, coordinated, and implemented 1 Marketing Seminar in the Pee Dee Region. Over 37 Goat producers participated in these programs. The topics included goat opportunities, goat cycles and trends, multi-species grazing, equip, producer panel and observations, on-farm processing, meat laws and regulations, forming marketing alliances, and ethnic marketing. Speakers included Brian Beer (Area Livestock and Forages Agent), Kevin Campbell (Area Livestock Agent and Forages Agent), Danny Howard (Extension Agent), Mathew Anderson (NRCS) and Lee Van Flake (Area Livestock and Forages Agent). Send a Livestock article to the Sumter, SC newspaper every 3rd week about livestock management and livestock events going on in the Pee Dee Region.
- Assisted with the Pee Dee Cattlemen's Association on programming and implementing meetings. Producers from Marion, Horry, Dillon, Marlboro, Georgetown, Williamsburg, and Florence Counties are members of this association.
- 2011-2012 helped various beef cattle producers in the Pee Dee Region select bulls and replacement heifers for their cow herds.
- Make many farm visits on a weekly basis to assist and educate livestock clientele in the Pee Dee Region. Farm visits include education on forages, marketing, herd health, reproduction, bull selection, heifer selection, pasture management, fencing, facilities, equine management, goat production and many other facets of animal agriculture (all Pee Dee Counties).

4-H Livestock Programs:

- Assist all the 4-H agents in the Pee Dee Region with 4-H livestock programs.
- Conducted 3 livestock showmanship and care programs for kids and parents that were showing livestock in the many county fairs and state fair in South Carolina. These were held in Marlboro, Horry, and Sumter County.
- Very active in 4-H livestock clubs in the Pee Dee Region. Make many presentations during the year to these clubs. Clubs include Williamsburg County Horse Club, Sumter County Livestock Club, Horry County Livestock Club, and the Marlboro County Livestock Club.
- Serve as the director of the Eastern Carolina Agriculture Fair 4-H Livestock Show.
- 4-H wether goat project and 4-H barrow project shows. Over 30 kids participated in this project. Responsibilities included coming up with show rules, picking up goats, handing out goats and pigs, judging the barrow and goat shows, assisting with poster projects, assisting with participants on barrow and goat issues before the fair, and other matters pertaining to the shows at the fair. Assisted with the care of the animals before the show and during the show. Assisted with parents and kids in production practices to ensure healthy animals would be brought back to the fair.
- Assisted Pee Dee Region 4-H agents with Pee Dee Region 4-H short course held at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center.
- Served as State Wide Coordinator for the 4-H barrow hog project held at the South Carolina State Fair. Assisted other livestock agents with the planning, coordination, and implementation with the state barrow show held at the State Fair in Columbia, SC.
- Judge livestock shows throughout the state at county fairs.

4-H'ers "Learn by Doing"

As the school year ends, parents look for summer activities for their youth. In Marlboro County there is and has been a serious need for positive summer activities for youth. Marlboro County 4-H offers a variety of camps, workshops, contests, and activities for 4-H



summer enjoyment. 4-H is a fun youth development program that helps youth develop knowledge and skills in leadership, decision making, personal development, and citizenship through a variety of activities. 4-H is about "learning by doing."

A number of summer workshops were conducted to introduce youth to 4-H, provide a variety of activities to help them develop their own personal development skills, and give them a positive experience. All of the activities offered during the Summer Day Camps were hands-on activities. These workshops vary from year to year. Workshops have covered topics such as food safety and nutrition, sand painting, creating

terrariums, wood working, electricity, computers, rocketry, environment, painting, sewing, gardening projects, Agriculture and Farm tours. Extension staff and volunteers work together to plan and conduct these workshops. Presenters include Extension Staff and Volunteers from the community and 4-H Alumni.

In evaluations by youth, 90% indicated that these workshops were needed. Eighty-five percent of youth indicated that they learned something new. Over 150 youth participated in these activities. These summer activities help youth learn a little about 4-H and provide some summer fun. Youth took their projects home and can look back at what they accomplished. Youth have entered their projects in the Eastern Carolina Fair where they win ribbons and prize monies. They have created posters of what they have learned and entered them for judging as well. As a result of the workshops, youth have become active members of 4-H Clubs. They have competed in county and state contests. Many participate each year and invite their friends. Furthermore, this stimulates their interest in other projects. Most importantly, it provides a fun and positive learning experience for youth in the community. It has also given older 4-H Teens the opportunity to learn leadership and provide community service by volunteering their time as teen leaders.

Marlboro County 4-H Youth Win Awards in Eastern Carolina Fair, 4-H Market Goat and 4-H Pig Project

Christian Burris Durham, McKenzie Burris-Sweatt, Hannah Fowler, Vincent Hudson, and Zachery Hudson 4-H'ers from Marlboro County participated in the 4-H Market Goat and 4-H Pig Project. For their hard work and effort they received ribbons and cash awards for their labor.

They also learned the value of responsibility of raising an animal in this Project sponsored by the Eastern Carolina Fair. They received goats and/or pigs in June. The 4-H youth was responsible for raising their animal, keeping records on its growth, and learning to present themselves and show their animal in a show ring. The students concluded the project by showing the animals in the Eastern Carolina Fair held at the

Florence Fairgrounds. The youth were judged based on their project poster, showmanship, appearance and weight gain of the animal. They were awarded ribbons and cash awards in these categories.

Hannah Fowler was the overall first place winner in the 4-H Market Goat Project in the Junior Division and had the highest score of all of the participants. This is the fourth year in a row she has received this honor.

Christian Burris-Durham was the second place overall winner in 4-H Market Goat Project Senior Division (Ages 14-19).received Blue Ribbon for high weight gain of his animal in both the goat and pig project.

The 4-H members receive ribbons and also cash awards for their accomplishments. This is one of the many projects available in 4-H. The goal is for youth to learn leadership, community service, and personal development. Congratulations to all of the youth for their hard work and dedication. The 4-H Market Goat and Pig Project is an annual event sponsored by Eastern Carolina Agricultural Fair in Florence.



Hannah Fowler and her goat, Gabriel - First Place overall, and in Costume, Poster and Showmanship



McKenzie Burris-Sweatt, Christian Burris-Durham, Vincent Hudson, Zachery Hudson, and Hannah Fowler

Marlboro County Ag
Building
709 S. Parsonage Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 10

www.clemson.edu/marlboro

The Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

Staff

Michael S. McManus
Regional Lead Agent &
4-H Agent
mmcmns@clemson.edu
843-479-6851, Ext.112

Grady Sampson
County Extension Agent
gsampso@clemson.edu
843-479-6851, Ext.113

Patricia E. "Trish" DeHond
Area Agronomy Agent
pdehond@clemson.edu
843-858-0754, Mobile

Lee Van Vlake
Area Livestock Agent
rii@clemson.edu
843-661-4800, Ext.124

Brenda S. Hunt
Administrative Assistant
brenda@clemson.edu
843-479-6851, Ext.114

Marlboro County has a new Nutrition Educator Assistant

Theresa Curtis-Barnes joined the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) in Marlboro County as a Nutrition Educator Assistant in July 2012. Ms. Curtis-Barnes has begun delivering Food and Nutrition Programs to pregnant women and families of children who have limited resources. Families are learning to make good choices to improve the nutritional quality of the meals they serve. Lessons cover My Plate, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, food safety, food preparation skills, food storage, food budgeting and meal planning.

